



Mexico and the Mayans

Summer 3B Year 5 Further Reading List



Book	Author	Blurb
The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folktale	Linda Lowery	This is a popular choice of Mayan folktale for KS2. It tells the story of the Mayan king who brings his people the gift of a chocolate tree, much to the displeasure of his brother, Night Jaguar, who plots to rid the people of this special treat and keep it for the gods. The Chocolate Tree has a high appeal because
Middleworld (Jaguar Stones)	J&P Voelkel	An action-packed adventure novel filled with suspense and excitement, with a good level of depth for upper KS2. This book, which is the first in a popular series, tells the story of fourteen-year-old Max, who finds himself on a quest to rescue his archaeologist parents from the Maya underworld and to save the world from the Lords of Death.
Illumanatomy	Ms. Kate Davies & Carnovsky	We love interactive non-fiction books and this is one that children can spend hours poring over. Use the different coloured lenses provided to see the different layers of the human body and reveal how the body's systems work together. Really fun but also hugely informative and well pitched for upper KS2, there is plenty to discover in this information text with a difference.
The Corn Grows Ripe	Dorothy Rhoads	Full of interesting details about everyday life in Mayan culture, The Corn Grows Ripe is the coming-of-age tale of a twelve-year old Mayan boy called Tigre, who is forced to take on the role of planting and harvesting the corn when his father becomes injured.
Avoid being a Mayan Soothsayer (Danger Zone)	Rupert Matthews	Avoid being a Mayan Soothsayer is the perfect non-fiction text to inject some humour into your Mayans topic while introducing the conventions of information texts, including a full glossary, captions and an index. Find out about what life would have been like for the son of a Mayan soothsayer, including all of the gory bits!
The Great Kapok Tree	Lynne Cherry	The Mayans believed that the Kapok tree was sacred. Although this story does not directly mention the Mayans, it centres around the fate of a Kapok tree in the Amazon rainforest and for this reason many teachers use this popular text alongside their Mayan topic. This is a colourful and engaging picture book that captures the spirit of the rainforest through its beautifully detailed illustrations. It has a simple story line that is accessible to less confident readers but a strong message about deforestation and enough depth to captivate older readers too.